Dr. Jacques Paris, one of the inventors of the application, and Sylvie Delpy who is in charge of the in-house patent department for the assignee at the interview granted on November 14, 2001. A copy of the interview summary report is submitted herewith since the Examiner did not have the application before her at the time of the interview.

In related application Serial No. 284,147 filed April 7, 1999, there was a rejection of the claims therein as being obvious over the Lanquetin et al patent No. 5,891,867 as well as the Fraser et all reference. The Examiner in the related application deemed that the invention was obvious from these references since in the Examiner's opinion, the same method of treatment was being claimed in both instances.

As pointed out in the amendment filed in the related application, the references does not teach the invention of the claims of the present application since the previous claims of application Serial No. 284,147 as directed to the prevention of estrogen deficiencies in menopausal women or preventing osteoporosis and cardiovascular disorders in said menopausal women by continuously administering without interruption to menopausal women in need thereof an amount of a mixture of 0.3 to 3 mg of an estrogen and 0.1.3 to 1.25 mg of nomesgestrol an ester thereof.

Applicant's method is quite different from the two references in the fact that the treatment in both references is drawn to treatment for estrogen deficiencies and reestablishment of an endometrial cycle in menopausal women.

In the Lanquetin et al patent, the treatment is for estrogen deficiencies and re-establishment of an endometrial cycle in menopausal women by administering orally to menopausal women in three different sequences an estrogen alone followed by an estrogen-progestin combination and then a placebo for the duration of the month. In contrast thereto, Applicant's method relates to the continuous administration without interruption of the estrogen and a specific progestin, namely, nomegestrol or an ester thereof in specific ranges.

The present method is drawn to contraception in childbearing women in establishing a normal cycle with periods in such women. This is the reason why the treatment is just stopped one or two days before the normal date of menses in order that a withdrawal bleeding may occur and that the women may determine at what date this phenomenon occurred.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicant's patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Bierman, Muserlian & Lucas

Charles A. Muserlian, Reg. # 19,683
Attorney for Applicant

Enclosures:
Marked-up Version of Claims